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VOLUME LXXXV. NO. 271.

WILL RECOMMEND CITY PLAN BOARD

Special Municipal Committee to Report Nov. 20.

ORDINANCE WILL BE OFFERED

Measure Provides for Body of Eight, Mayor, Presidents of Aldermen and Council, Commissioner of Public Works, and Four to be Named by Chief Executive.

An ordinance creating a city plan commission will be presented to the Board of Aldermen Nov. 20 by the joint special committee appointed by the City Council some months ago to consider the advisability of establishing such a body.

The committee will make its report through Alderman Joseph Balch, its chairman, and will at the same time submit the draft of an ordinance, the passage of which it will recommend.

Under the proposed plan the commission would consist of the Mayor, the Presidents of the Board of Aldermen and Common Council, the Commissioner of Public Works and four civilians to be named by the Mayor. This would mean a commission of eight members.

The advisory powers of the proposed commission are enumerated in the ordinance. It is empowered to report a plan for the development of the city and to call upon any city department for aid. The proposed ordinance follows:

"Section 1. In and for the city of Providence there shall be a city plan commission, consisting of the Mayor, the President of the Board of Aldermen, the President of the Common Council and the Commissioner of Public Works, all ex-officio, and four persons to be appointed by the Mayor of said city from citizens of the city who hold no official position in or under the City Government and who are interested in and have special qualifications for the work pertaining to city planning.

NAMED BY MAYOR.

"Sec. 2. Within 30 days after the passage hereof the Mayor shall appoint such appointive members, two thereof to serve until the 1st day of February, 1915, and the other two until the 1st day of February, 1917; and in the month of January, 1915, and in January of every second year thereafter he shall appoint two of such members to serve until the 1st day of February in the fourth year following the year of their appointment; and such appointive members shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed and have accepted such appointments.

"The Mayor shall fill any vacancy occurring among the members of the commission, who are appointed by the Mayor, by appointing such a citizen as a member for the unexpired term. As soon as practicable after such original and each biennial appointment, said commission shall organize by electing from its own number a chairman and a secretary, but no ex-officio member shall be eligible for either of said positions. No member of said commission shall receive any compensation as such member or for any services rendered said commission.

"Sec. 3. Said commission shall have the following advisory powers and duties. It shall make careful studies of the construction, resources, possibilities and needs of the city with special reference to its future and progressive development, and particularly shall investigate and consider as to any present or impending civic problems involving the physical construction, arrangement or equipment of the city; the causes and prevention of congestion of population, habitation or travel in the city; the causes and the prevention of slum districts and the improvement of any districts in the city which are run down or decreasing in value; the public health or sanitary condition of the city, or any public means or facilities for promoting the public health, comfort or welfare.

TO REPORT ANNUALLY.

"After the year 1914 it annually on the first Monday of January shall make to the City Council its report, stating any facts or information relative to the condition of the city or any of the aforegoing matters, and submitting any plans or proposals for the development or improvement of the city and estimates of the cost thereof in reasonable detail, with its advices and recommendations. In the performance of its general duties herein prescribed, it shall not interfere with any commission or committee having charge of the investigation of any special matter referred to it by the City Council or either branch thereof. It shall investigate and report with its advices and recommendations to the City Council as to any special matter referred to it by resolution or ordinance of the City Council.

"Sec. 4. Said commission shall prepare, and when completed report to the City Council, a comprehensive plan for the systematic and harmonious development of the city, based primarily on practical utility and the public convenience and health, and relative thereto may cause to be made any maps or drawings of any parts of the city in which it is proposed to locate or make any improvements. In the performance of any of its duties, it may employ expert or other advice or services and incur any other expense necessary therefor, but it shall not, for any purpose, contract for the payment of any sum of money or incur any expense greater than the amount then appropriated and available therefor. Said commission may confer with and invoke the aid of any departments or officers of the city. It may at any time make preliminary report to the City Council concerning its proposed plan or scope of work, and the estimated cost thereof for any year and the estimated total cost of executing the same."

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